

Rare Plant Status Review: *Fritillaria glauca*

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Changes made since the original status review appear in blue.

Background

Fritillaria glauca is a perennial bulb in the Liliaceae. *F. glauca* is included in *The Jepson Manual* (1993), *The Flora of North America* (Vol. 26), and will be included in *The Jepson Manual* (2nd Edition). *F. glauca* is distinguished from other *Fritillaria* species based on vegetative (including number and shape of leaves), floral, and bulb characteristics. Smith and Wheeler (1992) state that *F. glauca*, “is a variable plant and is sometimes difficult to identify.” The peak flowering period for *F. glauca* is June to July, but herbarium collections from April and May indicate this species may flower earlier in the year.

In California, *F. glauca* is found on summits, and alpine talus or scree slopes from 1735 to 2440 meters in elevation. *F. glauca* is often found on serpentine soils or in areas with substrates consisting of ultramafic rocks. Smith and Wheeler (1992) indicate that it is, “found consistently on serpentine gravels.” Dean Taylor (pers. comm. 2008) states that *F. glauca* is typically found growing on peaks in talus on north-facing slopes. *F. glauca* also occurs within upper montane coniferous forest or subalpine coniferous forest habitat types.

In northern California, *F. glauca* is known from 23 occurrences in 9 counties. Occurrences are distributed widely in the Cascade, North Coast and Klamath Ranges from Del Norte County in the north to Mendocino County in the south. Many of the California occurrences are from historical collections and observations, and field work is needed to accurately map the extent of *F. glauca* at these locations. According to Sue Vrilakas (pers. comm. 2008), *F. glauca* is known for more than 80 occurrences in southwest Oregon.

~~In California, there are no known threats to *F. glauca*.~~ In California, *F. glauca* is threatened by off highway vehicles. Sue Vrilakas (pers. comm. 2008) indicates that in Oregon, “populations appear to be secure with no threats to habitat.” Although the ownership of most of the occurrences is unknown, much of the land within the range of *F. glauca* is in public ownership. Alpine habitats (especially those with serpentine soils) within and beyond the known range this taxon should be searched for additional occurrences. Although the wide geographic range of *F. glauca* suggests that it is common, Dean Taylor (pers. comm. 2008) cautions that, “suitable habitat is isolated, uncommon, and the number of counties with occurrences is not a strong correlate with its abundance.”

F. glauca was included in the 1974 CNPS Inventory in Appendix II (Plants not rare but mostly of limited distribution). Since 1980, *F. glauca* has been considered “too common” by CNPS and has been included on the Considered But Rejected (CBR) list.

Based on the current information, CNPS and CNDDDB recommend that *Fritillaria glauca* be added to ~~List 2.3~~ [List 4.2](#). If reviewers indicate that this *F. glauca* is too common to be included on List 2, we will consider placing it on an alternate list (either on List 4 or CBR).

Recommended Actions

CNPS: Add to CNPS ~~List 2.3~~ [List 4.2](#)

CNDDDB: Add to CNDDDB as G4 / S3

Please review the draft CNPS Inventory record below, respond Yes or No on the proposal to add this species to the Inventory and CNDDDB, and provide any edits/comments. If responding No, please provide supporting information.

Draft CNPS Inventory Record

Fritillaria glauca Greene

Siskiyou fritillaria

Liliaceae

~~List 2.3~~ [List 4.2](#)

Colusa, Del Norte, Glenn, Humboldt, Lake, Mendocino, Shasta, Tehama, Trinity
565A (Crockett Peak) 3912247, 565D (Potato Hill) 3912237, 564C (Fout Springs)
3912236, 581A (Plaskett Meadows) 3912267, 581C (Hull Mountain) 3912258,
680B (Grizzly Peak) 4112128, 682D (Tombstone Mtn) 4112213, 668B (Thurston
Peaks) 4012382, 613D (South Yolla Bolly) 4012217, 613B (North Yolla Bolly)
4012228, 613C (Solomon Peak) 4012218, 634D (Black Lassic) 4012335, 582D
(Sanhedrin Mountain) 3912351, 564A (Stonyford) 3912245

Alpine communities (AlpBR), upper montane coniferous forest (UCFRs),
subalpine coniferous forest (SCFRs); elevation 1735-2440 meters.

Bulbiferous herb. Blooms June-July (April-May).

[Threatened by vehicles](#). See Erythea 1: 153 (1893) for original species
description.